

FRONT LINE

Mission: US Safe Home

CRISIS AID
INTERNATIONAL



REPORT

Helping the Helpless

March 2014



REFUGE

December 17, 2013
Our US Safe Home for victims
of sex trafficking celebrated its
first anniversary! Thank You.

On December 17, 2013, **REFUGE**, our new US Safe Home for victims of sex trafficking, celebrated its first anniversary.

Your generosity made this possible!

31

**girls & young women
ages 14-23 years old
received multiple
rehabilitation services
throughout 2013.**

We served girls from St. Louis, Missouri and other parts of Missouri, from Dallas, Texas, from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from Indianapolis, Indiana and from Memphis, Tennessee.

We partnered with local and federal law enforcement agencies and several other state and nonprofit agencies in the St. Louis and Oklahoma City area to provide a Safe Home for the girls they rescued.

We are unable to share individual stories of the girls you helped because we want to protect their privacy.

What we can share is that you have given girls—many who were in a hopeless situation—a chance to experience hope and dream once again. It is hard, if not impossible, for most of us to truly understand utter hopelessness. These precious girls understand it intimately. **Because of you, they now know that their life has value and meaning.** You gave them the gift of a brand new future. A chance for them to create a life they may have only dreamed of.

One girl claimed, “This home and everyone associated with it is the best thing I have ever experienced in my life.” Another stated, “I have never experienced love from someone with no strings attached.”

The staff who work with the girls daily are dedicated to helping each girl realize and become all that God created her to be.



One of the girls started college this January! She said her goal is to work for Crisis Aid when she graduates. That is exactly what happened with the first girl we ever rescued from sex trafficking in our Ethiopian program. Yodit was rescued in 2006, graduated with an accounting degree, and has been working in

our Ethiopia programs ever since, along with a few other Safe Home graduates. We believe this too could happen for the American girl in REFUGE, our St. Louis Safe Home.

Each girl in the home received a variety of services, depending on her individual needs, including a safe secure loving home with her own private bedroom, nutritious meals, new clothing, individual and group counseling, mental health care, medical and dental health care, substance abuse treatment, pet therapy, legal aid, dozens of life skills and educational programs, parenting classes, recreational activities, access to multiple spiritual programs, and more.

All of their stories—their life experiences—are heartbreaking and gut wrenching. For many, their life of abuse began when they were a young child. To see the girls begin to



respond to the love and care they receive in REFUGE, your Safe Home, is priceless.

Some of the girls we served were successfully reunited with their families after it was determined that it was safe to do so. Imagine how you would feel if this was your child and

she was rescued and reunited to you. This is how many of these families feel; they have an immeasurable amount of thankfulness for you and what you did for their daughter and ultimately their family.



Dozens more victims of sex trafficking will need our help in 2014.

The home has two wings with 11 bedrooms in each wing. **Presently we have one wing open, but our goal for 2014 is to open the second wing as it is already needed.** We need to raise an additional \$650,000 for operating costs for the second wing to provide a full restorative program for the girls.

This work is expensive, but how do you place a value on a girl's life?

One of our partner agencies called us in late December, just before Christmas. They had a girl who was rescued by law enforcement. During their investigation, it was learned that she came from a good home with parents

who loved her and were missing her greatly. **Because you made our program possible, the girl was reunited with her family a few days before Christmas.** What an indescribable gift you gave this family. Just think for a moment how you would feel if this was your daughter, sister, niece or granddaughter. You literally gave the gift of a Christmas miracle! THANK YOU.

Thank You!

Many of the girls have a long recovery ahead. Although they can stay in our Safe Home for up to one year, our position is that we are in this for the life of the girl, period. We believe it is our God-given mission to provide whatever help each girl needs to overcome and to learn to live a life free from her past.

Is it possible; you bet it is! Our work overseas with sex trafficking victims has taught us that nothing is impossible. We just can't give up on them. We know that in time, with your help, victims become survivors.

Please continue to support this critically needed work both financially and with your prayers. **This home needs monthly partners more than anything.** So whether you can give \$10, \$25, \$50 or more a month, please consider scheduling a monthly ongoing gift today. **If you pay Missouri income taxes, you are also eligible to receive tax credits, so ask us how to secure your credits before they are all gone.**

Your generosity is saving lives and making dreams come true. Thank you again from the 31 girls you have already served and the dozens more to come in 2014.

God bless you,



Pat and Sue Bradley

You can help restore sex trafficking victims. Your gifts make a difference.

E info@crisisaid.org **T** 1.888.740.7779 **T** 314.487.1400 **F** 314.487.1409 **www.crisisaid.org**
P.O. Box 510167 St. Louis, MO 63151-0167

CFC# 70603

Donations can also be made online at www.crisisaid.org.

Our web site meets the extreme security requirements of all credit card companies.

Models were used for photos in this issue in order to protect the privacy of actual victims.

